

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. An apparatus, comprising:
 a shaft, and
 a retention structure, wherein the retention structure is configured as a closed loop non-concentrically disposed about a longitudinal axis of the shaft.
2. An apparatus, as in Claim 1, further comprising a lumen configured to receive a stylet, wherein the lumen is coextensive with the shaft and substantially coextensive with the retention structure.
3. An apparatus, as in Claim 1, further comprising a hydrogel coating disposed on an outer surface of the catheter.
4. An apparatus, as in Claim 1, wherein the shaft includes an orientation marking at a proximal end of the shaft.
5. An apparatus, as in Claim 1, wherein a proximal end of the shaft includes a beveled edge.
6. An apparatus, as in Claim 1, wherein the retention structure further includes a protuberance projecting from the retention structure.

Sub
B2

000720" 98422560
0522486.031000

✓7.

7. An apparatus, as in Claim 6, wherein the protuberance projects from a midpoint of the closed loop.

8. ~~8.~~

0. ~~8.~~ An apparatus, as in Claim 6, further comprising a lumen coextensive with the
5 shaft and protuberance configured to receive a stylet.

9.10.9.

9. An apparatus, as in Claim 8, wherein the lumen extends through a distal end of the protuberance.

10 10

10. An apparatus, as in Claim 8, wherein the lumen extends to a point proximal to a distal end of the protuberance.

11/9/11.

11. An apparatus, as in Claim 6, wherein a segment of the retention structure defines a cavity to receive a portion of the retention structure.

15

20

12. A method treating incontinence, comprising:

providing an apparatus including a shaft and a retention structure,
wherein the retention structure is configured as a closed loop non-
concentrically disposed about a longitudinal axis of the shaft;

rendering the retention structure substantially rectilinear;

inserting the rectilinear retention structure through a urethra into a
bladder;

reforming the retention structure into a closed loop non-concentrically
disposed about a longitudinal axis of the shaft; and

positioning the retention structure adjacent the neck of the bladder with
the non-concentrically disposed retention structure in a predetermined
orientation

13. The method, as in Claim 12, wherein the apparatus further comprises a lumen

configured to receive a stylet, wherein the lumen is coextensive with the shaft and
substantially coextensive with the retention structure.

14. The method, as in Claim 12, further comprising providing a stylet and
wherein the stylet is inserted into the lumen in the apparatus to render the retention
structure substantially rectilinear.